

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 2, 4-5, 13-14, 16-17, and 19-38, amend claims 1, 3, 6, 8-11, 15 and 18, and add new claims 39-51. No new matter is believed to be introduced as a result of the aforementioned amendments. The following list of claims replaces all previous claim listings in this case.

1. **(Currently amended)** An optical coupler system comprising:
a housing;
a sleeve situated in and attached to said housing, the sleeve having a changeable inside diameter; and
a ferrule situated in removably positioned within said sleeve, a relation between the sleeve and the ferrule being such that when the ferrule is positioned within the sleeve, the sleeve has a first inside diameter, and after the ferrule is removed from the sleeve, the sleeve has a second inside diameter that is less than the first inside diameter.
2. **(Canceled)**
3. **(Currently amended)** The system of claim 2 1, wherein said sleeve has a lengthwise slit.
4. – 5. **(Canceled)**
6. **(Currently amended)** The system of claim 5 1, wherein:
said ferrule has an outside diameter slightly larger than an said inside diameter of said sleeve with when said ferrule is not situated in said sleeve; and
the inside diameter of said sleeve may be expanded against a spring like tension to a size of the outside diameter of said ferrule with is substantially the same as the outside diameter of said ferrule when said ferrule is situated in said sleeve.
7. **(Original)** The system of claim 6, wherein said ferrule holds an optical fiber.

8. (Currently amended) The system of claim 7, wherein an end of said optical fiber in said ferrule is aligned with ~~and~~ an optoelectronic element situated in said housing.

9. (Currently amended) An optical coupling system comprising:
a support structure; and
a holding structure attached to said support structure, where said holding structure has a changeable inside diameter and is configured to removably receive an optical medium holder having an outside diameter, the inside diameter being substantially the same as the outside diameter when the optical medium holder is received in the holding structure, and the inside diameter being less than the outside diameter after the optical medium holder is removed from the holding structure; and
~~an optical medium holder held by said holding structure.~~

10. (Currently amended) The system of claim 9, wherein said holding structure comprises a sheet of material configured to semi-enclosing at least partially enclose said a received optical medium holder.

11. (Currently amended) The system of claim 10, wherein ~~the said sheet of material is configured to apply applies a pressure at a plurality of points of contact at least partially around on between said sheet of material and said a received optical medium holder.~~

12. (Original) The system of claim 11, further comprising an optoelectronic element holder attached to said support structure.

13. – 14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~14~~ 10, wherein ~~the said sheet of material is a sleeve having a slit.~~

16. – 17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) The system of claim 17, wherein the light source is a laser 12, further comprising an optical transmitter held by said optoelectronic element holder.

19. – 38. (Canceled)

39. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein said sleeve has a rounded outside edge and a beveled inside edge.

40. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein said sleeve is attached to said housing by a single strip of metallization covering an arc of about 45° or less of the circumference of said sleeve and running substantially the length of said sleeve.

41. (New) The system of claim 15, wherein said sleeve has a rounded outside edge and a beveled inside edge.

42. (New) The system of claim 15, wherein said sleeve is attached to said support structure by a single strip of metallization covering an arc of about 45° or less of the circumference of said sleeve and running substantially the length of said sleeve.

43. (New) An optical coupler system comprising:

a housing;
a ferrule; and

means for holding the ferrule, where the means for holding the ferrule removably retains the ferrule in position relative to a portion of the housing by way of spring tension.

44. (New) The optical coupler system as recited in claim 43, further comprising:
an optical fiber held by the ferrule; and
an optoelectronic device positioned in the housing and configured for communication with the optical fiber.

45. (New) The optical coupler system as recited in claim 43, wherein the optical fiber is a single mode fiber.

46. (New) The optical coupler system as recited in claim 43, wherein the optoelectronic device is one of: an optical transmitter; or, an optical receiver.

47. (New) The optical coupler system as recited in claim 43, wherein the means for holding the ferrule exerts substantially no spring tension when not holding the ferrule.

48. (New) The optical coupler system as recited in claim 43, wherein the means for holding the ferrule exerts a pressure of contact around at least a portion of the ferrule.

49. (New) The optical coupler system as recited in claim 44, wherein the means for holding the ferrule maintains a desired alignment of the optical fiber with the optoelectronic device.

50. (New) The optical coupler system as recited in claim 43, wherein the means for holding the ferrule substantially prevents movement of the ferrule in the "x" and "y" directions.

51. (New) The optical coupler system as recited in claim 43, wherein the means for holding the ferrule comprises a sleeve attached to the housing and defining a longitudinal slit.